Siren Warning System RFP
Vendor Questions and Answers

1. Do the new siren controllers need to be AC/DC battery backup capable or are the existing sirens AC power only? Yes, they need battery backup.

2. Please provide the brand/type of siren controllers used for each City listed in the RFP. City of West Des Moines has Whelen Vortex series sirens. All other Cities with the exception of Urbandale use Whelen sirens (Urbandale uses Federal)

3. Please elaborate on the plans for the Urbandale sirens (are you keeping the sirens, what are the future plans, etc.) This is a City of West Des Moines project that will be made available to all of the cities covered by the Westcom coverage area once completed.

4. Please provide the model of the siren heads for each location listed in RFP? See question 1

5. Please clarify if City of Des Moines is looking to replace all siren controllers or the just the front end control stations? The City of Des Moines is not involved in this project.

6. Please provide GPS Coordinates of all siren locations, if available KPZ file attached

7. Are current siren controllers running on AC Only with batteries only being utilized in case of loss of power? City of West Des Moines sirens run off of a 24V DC system with AC used for charging.

8. Are current sirens running on 120 VAC or 220 VAC? 110 Volt/20 AMP

9. Due to the holiday's and the short timeline of the answers of the questions, we are requesting a two week extension. Deadline has been extended to January 17, 2018

10. In the RFP it states that "The existing sirens are not included in the RFP." We assume that this means that the siren (on the top of the pole) AND the siren decoder/receiver (at the bottom of the pole) in the RFP. Is this correct? That is correct

11. In the RFP it states that "The current Centralart system is monitored & activated by Westcom Dispatch staff with a backup location at one of the West Des Moines Public Safety Stations." Is it envisioned that the new GUI based system would be present at all dispatcher displays or a single PC/workstation access? In this case, the term "Public Safety Station" was meant to refer to the City of West Des Moines building where the Fire Administration staff is located. To answer the specific question, at this point in the RFP there isn't a strict requirement at this point that each

dispatcher workstations be able to fire the sirens. However, we would be interested in understanding the vendors' capabilities in this area.

12. I understand you are asking for 2 control units?, A) location Westcom Dispatch, B) Undefined public safety building. Would that be 2 full scale systems? One primary and one secondary/redundancy system? My understanding is that the primary system would be located at the Westcom Dispatch facility with a backup/ redundant location at another building.

13. Will you operate the system from a rack in a server room? Or both server and desktop solutions? I believe that the current units are operated from a desktop, but rack space in a server room at the Dispatch center would probably be available if needed.

14. Will you be operating the system from a HMI desktop solution? And if so, how many? At this point, vendors should assume that a desktop solution would be desirable unless they can demonstrate that other solutions would provide a better value to the City. Regarding numbers, the dispatch center has roughly 8 dispatch stations along with 4 or 5 other workstations. If pricing is dependent on the number of desktops, be sure to include that in the pricing.

15. What radio system do you have today? Can we reuse the radiobase radio/s or should we include new radios in the offer? I'll work to get this information. You should assume that the existing radios can be reused.

16. What are the system minimum requirements? What specific features? Here are the minimums: polygon based, individual siren addresses, Whelen 10 digit DTMF, NWS coding, upgradable to support up to 100 sirens. Optional items include social network notifications, satellite dish for NWS data stream

17. We require a list of features in order to submit the form "Conformance to functional requirements" I understand the need for specificity. In this case, the major functional requirement is that the City of West Des Moines is not interested in replacing the sirens and is interested in the system to control the existing sirens.

18. Taxes: Have I understood it correct that, we should not add any taxes to the proposal as a sole provider? As a local government, the City of West Des Moines is a tax-exempt organization and will provide the proper documentation. Taxes should not be added.

19. Will you accept point 11.2, 11.3, 18, 7.5 as "NOT APPLICABLE" in the exception summary form, due to intellectual property and trademark restrictions?

      i. 11.2 – most not applicable considering there isn't expected to be any custom software development. Some of the listed items like user manuals and help documents, warranties, and licenses are still applicable

      ii. 11.3 – Not applicable considering that even though the vendor's software is proprietary to it, nothing is to be developed that will be proprietary to the City's installation. The City has negotiated source code escrow agreements with some of its major enterprise applications as an added cost, but I don't foresee that requirement in this case.

iii. 18 – Not applicable considering there is no custom software development

iv. 7.5- Not applicable

20. The Spec states: The sirens in Urbandale are listed in the Technical Environment but are NOT to be included in cost estimates for this proposal at this time. Please confirm that we are not to include any costs for these sirens or controls. That is correct. Incorporating Urbandale's sirens into this system is beyond the scope.

21. Please provide the Whelen siren models for each location listed in the RFP. <u>Specifically, the siren head unit model #s</u>   I'll see if I can get that information. They are Whelen Vortex sirens.

22. Are there plans for the radios to be replaced at dispatch or should we plan to integrate with the existing base stations?   Vendor should plan on integrating into the existing radio system unless there is a compelling reason to replace it.

23. What are the existing base station radio model #'s? I'll see if I can get that information

24. Is a physical office location for service in Polk County required or is same or next day response acceptable for service? A physical office location in Polk County is not required. Same or next day response should be acceptable.

25. Are the siren heads and controls at each pole going to remain the same? Are the controls at each of the siren locations to be upgraded? Siren heads are going to remain the same. In a perfect world, we would like to the controls to remain the same. However, if the controls at each location need to be upgraded to support the new central controller hardware and software then include that as a potential cost. If you don't know if the control units at each siren location need to be replaced, then make that statement but give us an idea of the cost of making those replacements.

26. Are you keeping the Whelen proprietary format (10 digit DTMF) for central control? Why is this format stated as a minimum requirement for the new system? We would be interested in hearing about the pros and cons of using a different format. Please be sure to discuss the cost ramification of switching the format

27. Is any part of the present system operating with two-way activation? Yes, the system uses two-way activation.

28. If the project involves a two-way system with a central station software package, what status reports/ information does the City want to receive. From my understanding, the City doesn't currently get many, if any, status reports from the current system so we don't have a list of required reports. We would like to be able to get enough reporting from the system to ensure that the siren units are functioning correctly.

29. Does the successful bidder have to install the headend central control equipment at the two locations or will the radio service vendor provide it? Based on the way the question is being asked, I don't believe that the successful bidder will "have" to install the equipment as part of the RFP but it will have to let us know so we can coordinate efforts with the radio vendor. The division of responsibilities between the winning vendor, the City, other vendors, and subcontractors can be negotiated. It would be helpful if vendors could summarize a high level project plan that defines roles and responsibilities.